

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00722 171120Z

42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 MC-02 AID-20

PC-04 /182 W

----- 127208

R 170948Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2174

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0722

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: UNSUCCESSFUL FRELIMO ATTACK ON BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER

MESSALO

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 564

1. NOTICIAS OF OCTOBER 17 PUBLISHES FIRST OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE  
BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES IN TWO MONTHS.

2. COMMUNIQUE NO. 23/73 OF OCTOBER 16 ANNOUNCES THAT (A)  
IN ATTEMPTS TO COMPENSATE FOR REVERSES SUFFERED IN CABO DELGADO  
DISTRICT, GROUP OF FRELIMO TERRORISTS ATTACKED VILLAGE OF  
CHAI (NORTH OF MACOMIA) AND NEARBY BRIDGE ACROSS MASSALO RIVER.  
(B) PROMPT REACTION OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY FORCES WAS "CROWNED  
WITH SUCCESS"; IN SWIFT COUNTER-ATTACK THEY KILLED 11

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00722 171120Z

TERRORISTS AND WOUNDED AN UNESTIMATED BUT LARGE NUMBER OF OTHERS,  
ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE LEFT ON THE TERRAIN. ARMS, AMMUNITION

AND EXPLOSIVES WERE CAPTURED INCLUDING ONE MACHINE GUN,  
TWO AUTOMATIC AND FOUR SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND ONE PISTOL.  
(C) PORTUGUESE FORCES SUFFERED TWO SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND TWO  
LIGHTLY WOUNDED. (D) THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON ALDEAMENTO AT  
CHAI INFLECTED SOME LIGHT INJURIES ON ELEMENTS OF POPULATION  
AS WELL AS SOME DAMAGE TO HOUSES AND STORAGE PLACES.

3. COMMENT: THE TWO MONTHS OF OFFICIAL SILENCE ON PART OF  
PORTUGUESE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IS PROBABLY DUE TO PERSONNEL  
CHANGES AND REAPPRAISAL OF POLICY ON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SINCE ARRIVAL OF NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF, RATHER THAN A RE-  
FLECTION OF LACK OF FRELIMO OR PORTUGUESE MILITARY ACTIVITY  
DURING THIS PERIOD.

4. ABOVE IS SECOND KNOWN MAJOR FRELIMO ATTEMPT TO DESTROY  
BRIDGE NEAR CHAI. EARLIER ATTACK REPORTED LOURENCO MARQUES  
A-73, ENCLOSURE 1, PAGE 5.  
VAN OSS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, MOPS, MZ  
**To:** STATE  
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